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LETTER SIGNED BY MINISTER CONGER JULY 4 INDICATES THAT ALL IS OVER

General Rising Throughout All China Now Considered Certain, and All Missionaries Are Ordered to Shanghai or Hong Kong.

CHINA INTIMATES POWERS MUST KEEP AWAY FROM PEKIN

Russia Preparing to Bombard Coast Towns on Verification of Reports of Peking Massacre
—Three Hundred Thousand Chinese Are Marching to Keep Allies Away From
Pekin—Imperial Troops Kill Boxers Near Tien Tsin—Rumors of the
Safety of Ministers Believed to Be a Ruse to Gain Time.

LONDON, July 24.—Conger's written message, the substance of which has been transmitted to the United States secretary of the navy, through Captain Thomas, of the United States cruiser Brooklyn, has increased the belief in London that there is no hope for the foreign legations in Peking, and that the elaborate fabric of dispatches which the Chinese are building to persuade the civilized world that the ministers are still alive is only intended to enable them to gain time to complete preparations for warfare.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail asserts that a Chinaman who was employed at the British legation as a writer and interpreter has escaped from Peking to Niu Chwang and that he declares that at the time he left Peking most of the members of the legations were dead and the condition of the others was hopeless. He says Sir Robert Hart, director of the Chinese Imperial maritime customs, died July 2.

There is a movement northward of the southern Chinese troops to join the main army gathered to oppose the foreign advance on Peking. The strength of this principal force is now estimated at 200,000 men.

These signs of unrest in the southern provinces are coincident with Li Hung Chang's presence in Shanghai.

They are supposed to be the beginning of a general declaration against foreigners. In this connection, the Canton correspondent of the Telegraph, writing Tuesday, sends the following important news:

"Viceroy Tak Su today published the following mandate: 'An important imperial decree was issued on the 23rd day, sixth month; it says: We have lost Tien Tsin and great precautions are taken in Peking. No peace can be obtained without going through war.'"

With this accumulation of evidence of an impending big struggle, comes also the news of disagreements between the powers and foreign commanders, which threaten to hamper united action and to encourage Chinese resistance. A conference of admirals at Taku, called to settle the question regarding the management of the restored railway, decided in favor of Russian control, only the British and American admirals dissenting.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—The receipt at Tien Tsin of an apparently genuine message in autograph from Minister Conger has done nothing to dissipate doubt as to the situation at Peking. The message, which was first forwarded by naval officers at Tien Tsin, Taku and Che Foo, has served only to deepen the darkest and saddest mystery of the century.

The official conclusion remains unchanged, but it is admitted that a careful scrutiny of the autograph message, in comparison with the famous cipher message from Conger, admits of the belief that the two messages were indited by Conger at about the same time. As Conger declares that relief must come quickly, if at all, there is ground for suspicion that the crisis is over.

On the other hand, there came today a message from the great Chinese viceroy Hak, at Canton. This also affirmed solemnly the safety of the legations. Coming from such an important Chinese official, these dispatches claim attention. The pessimistic view of them, however, attributes all to a common origin, namely, some one high personage at Peking.

It was not known to the state department until its publication in the newspapers that the French government had also been addressed by the Chinese government in the effort to secure mediation. It now appears that Great Britain, Germany and probably

Russia received such messages. State department officials say that, generally speaking, the idea is not so much to secure mediation as to induce the powers to resort to the settlement of the difficulties between them and China by the submission of negotiations for armed forces. The chances of a successful outcome of this attempt to secure amelioration of the consequences of the Boxer uprising are much diminished by an intimation that the powers are expected to refrain from pressing any movement towards Peking. On the contrary, the United States war department is moving with greater energy than at any time to get its contingent in position for the task before it.

This government has acted all the while on the theory that the ministers were alive, and has accepted in good faith the assurances of the Chinese government to this effect, but it has not recognized in any way the suggestion that the Chinese government should furnish foreigners an escort out of Peking.

It is said at the state department today that the American minister is not to be delivered up by a force of Chinese troops to the allied forces or to any one else.

This government deems it appropriate, if he needs an escort out of Peking, that it should be composed of American soldiers.

TIENTSIN, July 16.—General Dordard, British commander, sent to the American commander a letter which says:

"I desire to express the high appreciation of the British troops of the honor done them in serving alongside their comrades in the American army. I blame myself for the mistake made in taking their position by the Ninth regiment. Still, the position they took and gallantly stuck to all day, undoubtedly prevented a large body of the enemy from turning the right of the attacking force and inflicting serious loss on the French and Japanese."

BRUSSELS, July 25.—The foreign office today received the following: "Shanghai—Li Hung Chang told me that the Chinese government was arranging to guarantee the retirement of the foreigners in Peking toward Tien Tsin. DECAERTIER."

Decartier is secretary of the Belgian legation at Peking.

PARIS, July 25.—The French consul at Shanghai telegraphs that five French missionaries have been killed by the Boxers in the Manchurian district.

LONDON, July 25.—The Express has the following from St. Petersburg: "Admiral Skreyloff, commanding the Russian squadron, has received precise instructions to bombard Chinese coast towns immediately on receipt of confirmation of the report of a massacre at Peking."

LONDON, July 25.—The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Express says:

"A general rising throughout China is now regarded as absolutely certain, and all missionaries throughout the empire have been ordered to take refuge without delay either at Shanghai or Hong Kong.

"Refugees are beginning to arrive from all parts in the most pitiable condition."

WASHINGTON, July 25.—The following cablegram was received at the navy department this morning: "Che Foo, July 24.—Navigation Bureau, Washington: A written message signed by Conger, dated July 4, and

received at Tien Tsin on the 21st inst. says:

"Been besieged two weeks in the British legation. Grave danger of general massacre by Chinese soldiers, who are shelling the legation daily. Relief must come soon if at all. City is without government except by Chinese army, which is determined to massacre all foreigners in Peking. The entry of relief forces into the city will probably be hotly contested."

"THOMAS."
The message is from Captain Charles M. Thomas, commander of the Brooklyn.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—A cablegram received today at the war department from Lieutenant-Colonel Coolidge, in command of the Ninth Infantry since the death of Colonel Liacum, indicates that the temporary government formed for Tien Tsin has not been put in force yet.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—Adjutant-General Corbin today received two cablegrams from Major-General Chaffee, both dated Nagasaki today.

The first reads: "Transport arrived at this port on 24th. All are well. Transport will leave this afternoon or the 25th for Taku."

The second dispatch follows: "I accept promotion to major-general. Thank president for me for the honor and his confidence."

PARIS, July 25.—The emperor of China has sent to President Loubet a letter transmitted by telegram by the governor of Shan Tung, July 19, appealing to him to take the initiative in restoring order out of the present chaotic state.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—The question of the authenticity of the dispatch from Minister Conger, dated Peking, on the 15th inst., developed the fact today that several years ago a copy of the state department cipher code disappeared and has never been recovered.

Tien Tsin, July 11.—Via Shanghai, July 24.—Colonel Bower, of the Chinese regiment; Colonel Wagon, of the Russian; and Colonel Aoki, of the Japanese, will form the joint present government for the city of Tien Tsin, which it was recently decided to establish. They will be entrusted with the task of bringing something like order out of the existing chaos.

Since the issue of the proclamation inviting well-disposed Chinese to return to their homes, a number have come back to the city and many native servants are coming to the settlements, a majority of them returning to the service of their previous employers.

The native city this afternoon presents an appalling spectacle of ruin and desolation. The suburbs were completely destroyed by fire, mostly caused by the shells of the allies on the side facing the settlements. It is believed that not a dozen houses are intact, and all were a little damaged by the tremendous fire of the allies' artillery, which, however, was apparently not heavy enough to produce much effect. A curious spectacle is presented by a number of mud hovels immediately under the wall where the last was most damaged, hardly one of them showing signs of having been hit.

Inside the city the damage was terrific. The buildings nearest the wall were most gutted by fire, and many were totally blown to pieces by the shells of the allies. Among the smoldering ruins are many charred bodies, which the pigs and dogs are eating.

The allies are busy removing the bodies, but, in consequence of the great number of dead, many have not yet been buried. The streets throughout the city are strewn with all kinds of articles, and dozens of Chinese are digging in the ruins for money and other valuables. Most of the houses which are intact or little damaged display the flags of one or the other of the allied forces, the Japanese and French flags predominating. There have been many attempts to imitate the flags, which, under other circumstances, would be laughable. The houses which do not display flags show bits of cotton or names of the allied nations and complimentary sentences. The French, apparently, are the favorites, many of the pieces of cotton displayed bearing the inscription "France," or "Vive la France." All are unmistakably in the handwriting of native clerks formerly employed by Chinese foreign firms.

It is stated that the Chinese losses since the trouble broke out are 11,000, most of whom have been killed by Boxers or soldiers. This is probably much exaggerated.

The Boxers are said to be gathering in large numbers in the neighborhood of Heison arsenal, captured by Admiral Seymour's column and now occupied by Russian troops, who have suffered severe casualties through "slippers" concealed in the woods in that vicinity.

CHICAGO, July 25.—A dispatch to the Record from Tien Tsin, dated Saturday, July 21, (via Shanghai) says: "Today's performance will break the backbone of the Chinese war party. At daylight this morning the combined forces turned their attack upon the Chinese left, which was penetrated. As the Russians failed to make a suitable bridge across the canal, the Chinese

made a smart counter attack on our right and left outposts. This was repulsed by a handful or two of men, who fought with great bravery, but were injured.

At 1 o'clock in the afternoon, the allies bombarded the native city, and after an hour of magnificent work by a handful or two of men who fought with great bravery, but with heavy casualties. No Americans were injured. At one o'clock in the afternoon, the allies bombarded the native city, and after an hour of magnificent work by two 4-inch guns and 12-pounders, the fort and adjoining pagodas were in flames. Their destruction was complete. The fort rallied feebly with a few rounds, when one gun got the exact range and fired several lyddite shells. This is the fort that had been shelling Tien Tsin since June 17.

The allied forces have spared the portions of the native city from which operations have not been directed.

TIENTSIN, Friday, July 20.—Chinese coming in from the country report that the Chinese soldiers are killing the Boxers wherever the latter are seen, giving as a reason that the Boxers deceived them into embarking on a hopeless struggle. An intelligent Chinaman said he regarded this as a sign of widespread disaffection. It was only a matter of a short time, he declared, before the same state would exist in Peking, when in all probability, Jung Lu, commander in chief of the Chinese forces, and Prince Ching, would be able to regain sufficient influence to make peace, especially if the foreigners in the capital were safe. This appears to present the general native opinion here, as far as it is possible to ascertain it.

In the meantime reliable news as to events in Peking and whether the foreigners are alive is entirely lacking, or it is only obtainable from Chinese sources, and even this is most meagre and contradictory. It is now thought that the forward movement of the allies will probably take place earlier than was at first intended, possibly by the end of the month, but nothing definite will be decided before the arrival of Sir General Sir Alfred Gaselee, commanding the Indian contingent.

A runner who arrived from Peking yesterday reports that the foreigners were safe on July 19, and that there has been considerable fighting between Boxers and soldiers inside the city.

TAKU, Saturday, July 21.—Chang Yi has unsuccessfully tried to arrange with the general commanding the Peh Tang forts for their surrender. The general refused to surrender the forts, but said that if the foreigners did not attack him he would agree to maintain a neutral attitude.

NEW YORK, July 25.—A special to the Tribune from Washington, says: "The most important and official news received by the war department from the Orient on Tuesday, was a dispatch saying that the transport Grant had been sighted in the inland sea of Japan, and would reach Nagasaki at an early hour Wednesday, 22 days out from San Francisco. Aboard the Grant are Major-General Chaffee, (who will learn of his promotion to that rank as soon as he steps ashore) two squadrons of the Sixth Cavalry, and a battalion of marines. General Chaffee will receive telegraphic advices from the secretary of war, which will hasten the departure of the Grant for Taku, where she will probably arrive on Saturday. It is expected that General Chaffee, after a conference with Admiral Remy, will immediately proceed to Tien Tsin, leaving the troops which accompanied him to follow as quickly as practicable. It is expected that the transports with two battalions of Fourteenth Infantry, and Remy's battery of the Fifth Artillery from Manila will reach Tien Tsin by the time General Chaffee arrives there.

After his conference with Admiral Remy and the commanders of the military forces at Tien Tsin, General Chaffee will promptly and fully advise the war department in regard to the details of the situation and the prospect of an early advance of the relief forces toward Peking. It is understood that his instructions contemplate that he shall do all he can, with due regard, of course, to military considerations, to promote as early an advance as practicable, and it is expected that in doing this he will act with the hearty co-operation of the other commanders of the international forces.

That the military preparation of the United States for the rescue of Minister Conger and other American citizens in China, if they are still alive, and for the protection of other American interests there, will be pressed as vigorously as ever, pending the suppression of the disorders which the Imperial Government has virtually confessed its inability to quell, is evident both from the president's dispatch to the emperor and from the vigor and energy with which such preparations are being pushed.

It is now conceded that battery O, of the Seventh Artillery, now at Fort Riley, Kans., under orders for Manila, will probably be diverted to North China. This battery is equipped with siege guns. Owing to the great size and weight of these guns and their carriages, their removal to China is a forced matter, and it is a foregone conclusion that they will be abandoned.

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(Continued on Page Four.)

DEMOCRATS WANT NO THIRD TICKET

Also Refuse to Fuse With the Anti-Imperialists.

ENTHUSIASM FOR BRYAN

Vote Stood 26 to 1 Against a Third National
Ticket, Then Made Unanimous—Pro-
prio of the Courier-Journal
Springs a Sensation.

INDIANAPOLIS, July 25.—By unanimous vote of the national committee of the national Democracy this afternoon, the scheme of fusion with the anti-imperialistic movement, originating with the recent mass meeting at Plaza Hotel in New York, was defeated, as was also the plan to place a gold Democratic ticket in the field this year. Of the thirty-nine members of the national committee, there were present nineteen, several of them holding proxies.

The sub-committee presented an address setting out the proposition for fusion and a third party ticket. Eastern and Western men opposed the proposition. When it came to W. D. Haldeman, proprietor of the Louisville Courier Journal, a sensation was sprung. Haldeman, in 1896, contributed valuable aid in actively raising funds for the organization and maintenance of the work of the Gold Democracy. When he concluded he withdrew from the room. In the course of his speech, he said:

"In 1896 I took upon myself abundant abuse from Kentucky Democrats, and I did it because I believed, with my friend Henry Watterson, in the righteousness of the refusal to compromise with dishonor on the question of sound and stable currency. I believed then that the Nation's honor in the stability of its money was involved, and, if I believed that in this respect there was any danger now, I would stand this day against the regular Democratic organization. No sane man believes this danger exists. The free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at a ratio of 16 to 1, without the consent of any other nation, has been relegated to another generation by this Nation.

"My heart goes out to those who struggle for liberty in every nation, and I applaud and approve the expression in the Democratic platform sympathizing with the Boers, a people who may be robbed of free citizenship in order to help English greed to gather to its coils the diamonds and gold of South Africa. I am compelled, with a sense of what is due to free America, that I love, to earnestly, actively support an American whom I believe loves his country, and whom I believe the highest and best type of an American citizen, and thus believing, I shall vote for and support William Jennings Bryan."

Haldeman then moved that the money now in the treasury of the Gold Democratic organization be paid to that splendid Democrat, the able leader of the Democrats of the East, David B. Hill, to use as his judgment may direct.

When the vote on the question of fusion and a third ticket was taken, Gordon Woodbury, of New Hampshire, was the only committeeman present who favored a third party ticket. The vote stood 26 to 1 against the proposition. Woodbury at once moved that the vote be made unanimous, and this was done.

A committee of three was appointed to draft a manifesto setting out the position of the national democracy regarding the issues now before the people.

PHILIPPINE COMMISSION.

Succeeded in Erecting Another Municipal Government.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—General MacArthur has called the war department the announcement of the successful erection of another municipal government in the Philippines under the terms laid down by the Philippine commission. This particular government is established at Vigan on the northwest coast of the island of Luzon.

INDIANS SET FIRE TO WOODS.

Extensive Forest Fires Now Raging in Northwestern Montana.

KALISPELL, Mont., July 25.—One of the worst forest fires ever known in Northwestern Montana is now raging in the Swan Lake country on the western part of the Lewis and Clark forest reserve. Gus Mosler, superintendent of the reserve, reports that Indians deliberately set fire to the timber and are slaughtering game. He will proceed against the perpetrators.